

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-13, and 15-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are the independent claims under consideration.

Claims 1, 5-9, and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,492,047 to Arff ("Arff"). Also, claim 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arff. In addition, claims 1-9 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swindle in view of Arff or U.S. Patent No. 5,386,651 to Okamoto. Finally, claims 10-13 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's conclusion that claims 10-13 and 15 contain allowable subject matter, and have amended independent claim 8 by including all of the limitations of claim 10 (rephrased for improved clarity), and then cancelled claim 10. In view of the cancellation of claim 10, claim 12 has been amended to update its dependency. In addition, claim 13 has been amended to more particularly define the subject matter thereof. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Applicants submit that the claim amendments recited above duly comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.116, and respectfully request entry.

Finally, Applicants cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice and without any intention of abandoning the subject matter of these claims.


Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 8 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the prior art of record and request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 8-9, 11-13, and 15-19 in due course.

Date: February 16, 2006

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Respectfully submitted,



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